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STATINTL

SENATORS REJECT DODD CHALLENGE

**Ethics Panel Asserts It Can
Scan His Financial Deals**

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WASHINGTON, July 20 —

The Senate Ethics Committee has brushed aside an attempt by Senator Thomas J. Dodd to challenge its authority to inquire into the use he made of proceeds from testimonial dinners.

John F. Sonnett, chief counsel for the Connecticut Democrat, said today that the Senate resolution creating the committee did not give the committee jurisdiction to investigate campaign finances.

When informed of Mr. Sonnett's statement, committee members said Senator Dodd and Mr. Sonnett had been taking this position in the committee's private session. They had done so, members said, since they learned the committee intended to examine the funds from testimonial dinners as well as the Senator's relationship with Julius Klein, head of a Chicago public relations firm.

Stennis Unimpressed

It was learned that Senator John Stennis, the Mississippi Democrat who is the committee chairman, was unimpressed by the argument that the committee lacked authority to investigate charges by Drew Pearson and Jack Anderson, Washington columnists, that Senator Dodd had diverted about \$200,000 from testimonial dinners to his own use.

Although the dinners had been advertised as campaign fund affairs, aides of the Senator have said, he regarded the

money from the tickets as a "personal gift," not subject to income tax.

The resolution creating the ethics committee, did not specify its authority to look into campaign finances. But it gave power to "investigate allegations of improper conduct which may reflect upon the Senate."

Senator Dodd, committee members said, cooperated fully with the committee's investigation into his relationship with Mr. Klein. The columnists had charged that Mr. Dodd went to Germany in April of 1964 to help "Klein hang onto his clients" there.

Cooperation Ends

However, committee members added, Mr. Dodd ceased to be cooperative when he was asked to make his financial records available.

Consequently, the committee is seeking information through subpoenas issued to banks, insurance companies and business concerns with which the Senator had dealings.

No subpoenas are being issued to Mr. Dodd because the committee does not wish to seem to be forcing him to incriminate himself.

A Senate committee is the judge of its own authority, subject only to limitation by the full Senate. Any challenge of its authority must be made on the Senate floor.

During the investigation of Senator Joseph R. McCarthy by the Subcommittee on Privileges and Elections in 1951 and 1952, Mr. McCarthy challenged the committee's authority to investigate his financial dealings. The Senate rejected his challenge, 60 to 0.